

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

UNCLAS WARSAW 1822

USIA FOR IPS, IEE, IBS-POLISH SERVICE, VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: U.S. SOCCER TEAM IN POLAND

1. "WE WERE DEFINITELY OUTCLASSED; THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE STRONGEST TEAM I'VE COACHED AGAINST," SAID UNITED STATES NATIONAL TEAM COACH AL MILLER AFTER WEDNESDAY'S SHATTERING 7-0 AMERICAN DEFEAT BY THE POLISH NATIONAL TEAM, WHICH PLACED THIRD LAST YEAR IN THE WORLD CUP FINALS. "TO WIN IN THIS GAME," MR. MILLER OBSERVED FURTHER, "YOU NEED COORDINATION, CONCENTRATION AND PREPARATION. THE POLES HAD ALL THESE AND WE STILL ARE LACKING IN ALL THREE AREAS."

2. THE FIRST HALF OF YESTERDAY'S MATCH IN THE POZNAN MAIN STADIUM WAS PLAYED IN A WET, DRIVING SNOW-STORM WHICH MADE THE FIELD EXTREMELY SLICK. "THIS WORKED TO THE POLES BENEFIT TO SOME EXTENT," MILLER ADDED, "IN THAT WE DON'T PLAY IN THESE WEATHER CONDITIONS AS OUR SEASON RUNS FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER. ALSO, THE POLISH TEAM IS SO GOOD THAT THE FIELD DIDN'T AFFECT THEIR BALL HANDLING TO ANY DEGREE, WHEREAS OURS SUFFERED. BUT EVEN GIVEN DRY CONDITIONS," THE AMERICAN COACH CONCLUDED, "WE WOULD'T HAVE DONE

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MUCH BETTER AGAINST THIS TEAM." THE ADVERSE WEATHER

HELD THE POZNAN CROWD TO 20,000 SPECTATORS.

3. POLISH BALL HANDLING WAS HIGHLY PRAISED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN TEAM. "FOR US THIS WAS SORT OF A TRAINING SESSION" SAID DEFENSEMAN WARNER ROTH. "WHEN YOU PLAY AGAINST THE BEST, YOU CAN'T HEOLP BUT LEARN SOMETHING".

4. MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES TEAM ARE ONLY SEMI-PROFESSIONALS. COACH MILLER SAID, "ALL OUR BOYS HOLD DOWN REGUALR JOBS AND ONLY PRACTICE TWO TIMES A WEEK EVEN DURING THE PLAYING SEASON. I FORESEE A DAY WHEN THIS WILL CHANGE," HE PREDICTED "AND THE AMERICAN SOCCER FEDERATION WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT FULLY PROFESSIONAL TEAMS BUT THIS DAY HASN'T ARRIVED."

5. THE AMERICAN TEAM CONCLUDES ITS POLISH VISIT BY TRAVELLING TO BYDGOSZCZ TO PLAY THE POLISH OLYMPIC TEAM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29. "THIS HSOULD BE A MORE INTERESTING GAME," OBSERVED AMERICAN MIDFIELD BARRY BARTO. "THE POLISH TEAM IN THIS ENCOUNTER WILL CONSIST OF PLAYERS UP TO 23 YEARS OF AGE, SO THE EXPERIENCE FACTOR WILL NOT WEIGH AS MUCH IN THE POLES'S FAVOR," HE SAID.

6. ALL THREE AMERICAN PLAYERS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD PLAYED AGAINST POLISH TEAMS, MIKE IVANOW, WERNER ROTH, AND BARRY BARTO, AGREED THAT THE PRESENT POLIHS NATIONAL TEAM IS THE STRONGEST THAT THEY'VE FACED.  
DAVIES

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